

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7372
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 0822
EXDIS
NAIROBI FOR DEPY ASST SECY HARROP

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, PORG, ET, US, SO, UNSC
SUBJECT: SPECIAL EMISSARY MEETING WITH ETHIOPIAN FONMIN

1. FOLLOWING UP FEB 17 MEETING WITH PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU, SPECIAL EMISSARY AARON MET NEXT DAY WITH FONMIN FELLEKE AND MOFA PERMSEC DAWIT. FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS OF INTEREST EMERGED FROM CONVERSATION.
2. UNSC MEETING. FELLEKE TOOK POSITION THAT REPORTED US EFFORTS TO CONVENE SECURITY COUNCIL ON OGADEN WOULD ONLY CONFUSE AND DELAY ISSUE OF SOMALI WITHDRAWAL, WHICH IS PREREQUISITE TO END OF HOSTILITIES. MORE USEFUL FROM ETHIOPIAN POINT OF VIEW WOULD BE FOR US TO USE ITS FULL INFLUENCE TO PERSUADE SIAD TO WITHDRAW. HE SUGGESTED THAT SIAD BARRE RESISTS WITHDRAWAL BECAUSE "HE DOES NOT WANT
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SOLDIERS TO COME BACK
TO MOGADISCIO*" HE WAS MOST EMPHATIC IN ASSURING THAT ETHIOPIA HAS NO INTENTION OF ENTERING INTO SOMALIA, NO DESIGNS ON HER NEIGHBORS.

3. OAU MEDIATION EFFORTS. FELLEKE INSISTED THAT THIS WAS AFRICAN CONFLICT, WHICH AFRICANS SHOULD RESOLVE, WHICH WAS WHY ETHIOPIA WOULD

CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH NIGERIA AND OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE. HE DISCLOSED THAT TWO MAN DELEGATION, COMPRISING PMAC MEMBER IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN RELATIONS MAJOR BERHANU BAYEH AND MOFA PERMSEC MAJOR DAWIT, HAD NOT YET LEFT FOR LAGOS IN RESPONSE TO GARBA INVITATION, OWING TO "UNAVAILABILITY OF GENERAL OBASANJO", BUT EXPECTED TO LEAVE SHORTLY. FELLEKE COULD NOT SAY WHETHER SOMALI DELEGATION WOULD BE IN LAGOS AT SAME TIME.

4. REPRISALS AGAINST OGADEN POPULATION. FELLEKE AND DAWIT TOOK STRONG ISSUE WITH ARGUMENT OF SOMALI CONCERN FOR SAFETY OF OGADENIS AFTER SOMALI WITHDRAWAL. JUST AS HAILE SELASSIE HAD NOT RETALIATED AGAINST ITALIAN RESIDENTS AFTER OUSTER OF FASCISTS, IT WAS NOT IN ETHIOPIAN TRADITION TO DO SO NOW AGAINST ITS OWN CITIZENS, EVEN THOUGH SOME HAD BEEN MISLED. FELLEKE SAID HE HIMSELF ORIGINATED FROM FEDIS IN OGADEN AND HAD LOST FAMILY MEMBER AS RESULT OF WAR, BUT HIS MALICE WAS AGAINST INVADER, NOT AGAINST OGADENIS, MANY OF WHOM WERE NOW HELPING TO SURROUND SOMALI UNITS DAWIT, FORMER RELIEF COMMISSIONER DEPUTY, CITED IMPRESSIVE STATISTICS TO SHOW THAT DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE AMOUNT OF ETHIOPIA'S DEVELOPMENT, SETTLEMENT, AND MUMANITARITAN EFFORTS WENT TO OGADEN BEFORE WAR. FACT THAT SOMALIA WOULD INJECT REPRISAL ISSUE AS MEANS OF DELAYING TROOP WITHDRAWAL WAS ANOTHER REASON WHY SC DEBATE UNDESIRABLE FROM ETHIOPIAN STANDPOINT.

5. PRESIDENTIAL CRITICISM. FELLEKE COMPLAINED ABOUT CONFUSING AND SECRET

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UNHELPFUL OFFICIAL STATEMENTS EMENATING FROM US GOVT LEADERS AND STATE DEPT, BUT ALSO TOOK NOTE OF US VIEW THAT ETHIOPIA SHOULD NOT TAKE ITS DISSATISFACTION OUT THROUGH INTEMPERATE PERSONAL CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT, HENZE SUGGESTED THAT US EMBASSY STOOD READY TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO CLARIFY MISUNDERSTANDINGS BEFORE PUBLIC CHARGES ARE MADE WHICH POISON ATMOSPHERE.

6. DEVELOPMENT AID. FELLEKE EXPRESSED CONTINUED ETHIOPIAN INTEREST IN US DEVELOPMENT AID, DESPITE BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS.

7. US ARMS DELIVERIES. FELLEKE ACCEPTED US RATIONALE FOR RELEASE OF ONLY NON-LETHAL MILITARY ITEMS PURCHASED BY EPMG. HE SEEMED TO WELCOME US ASSURANCES THAT DOD WOULD ASSIST IN FINDING SUITABLE REPLACEMENT ITEMS.

8. NEW US AMBASSADOR. FELLEKE SAID AGREEMENT FOR NEW AMBASSADOR SHOULD BE EXPECTED NEXT WEEK.

9. HENZE HAS CONCURRED.

10. DEPARTMENT PASS TO OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED.

MATHERON

OPS NOTE: MCNS WILL FOLLOW IN AM

SECRET

NNN

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